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Proceedings of the Club

TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 9, 1900

Professor Underwood presided, in absence of other officers; ten persons present.

The following resignations were accepted: Mrs. E. K. Dunham, Miss Bernice Mayers, Mr. Gustaf F. Heinen.

Professor MacDougal reported a recommendation from the Editorial Board that beginning January 1, 1901, the price of the BULLETIN of the Club be fixed at $3.00 a year to non-members.

Professor MacDougal moved that consideration of the membership fee and of the price of Memoirs or other matter to others than members be committed to a committee of five, of which the President and Editor be members, to report before January, 1901. The three other members of that Committee, were Dr. MacDougal, the Secretary, and Professor Lyon.

The scientific program followed and consisted of reports of summer work.

Mr. Harper reported collections in Georgia during three and a-half months, traversing all the geological formations from the mountains to the sea, and collecting 754 numbers.

Dr. Rydberg reported two months spent in southern Colorado, with several new species; among them an interesting cactus from elevation of 8,000 feet in the Bitter Root Mountains, now growing at the Botanical Garden.

Dr. Howe reported nine weeks spent in collecting marine algae at three very different stations, Bermuda, Martha's Vineyard (at Edgartown) and at Seguin Island, near the mouth of the Kennebec. Dr. Howe discussed the Bermuda flora in the light of the Challenger report, which recognizes 326 species, of which 144 are indigenous (in 109 genera and 50 families); out of the 144, 109 occur in the southeastern United States and 108 in the West Indies. The Bermuda vegetation is essentially West Indian in character, and includes only 8 endemic species. Among the very few found also here are *Osmunda regalis* and *O. cinnomomea*, *Wood-*

wardia Virginica, *Solidago sempervirens*, and *Typha angustifolia*. Practically the only trees are the Palmetto and the Bermudian cedar, the latter 20 to 50 feet high, and often 1 or 2 feet thick, though some old shells are 5 feet. The oleander is naturalized and in some quarters covered the whole landscape with bloom. Because of the practical absence of frost, tropical trees are acclimated with surprising success. The coffee tree has run wild in the sinkholes. About twenty-five ferns were known, and eight Musci and six Hepaticae had been already observed. There is nowhere any brook and only one moss and one hepatic are common; the others are in the Devonshire marsh and the sinkholes of the Walsingham region. These are open caves 30 or 40 feet deep, with more moisture and shade and less wind, and therefore showing quite a different flora. There Dr. Howe discovered as many as fifteen Hepaticae. He also greatly increased the number of the marine algae beyond the 132 of the Challenger report. The marine flora seems at first scanty on account of the absence of *Fucus* and *Ascophyllum*, but proves to be varied and interesting. It is practically that of southern Florida and the West Indies.

Dr. MacDougal reported work in northern Idaho in the Priest River basin which had perhaps never been visited by a botanist before. There was frost nearly every night. The tangled wild wood could not be penetrated more than four miles a day, except as it is entered by meadows stretching back from the lake. Beaver dams a quarter mile long cross these meadows and convert the upper portions into sedgy marshes. A colony of beavers was active with 400 yards of his camp. Great stretches of *Drosera* carpet the marshes. Interesting plants were collected to 325 numbers.

Professor Lloyd reported upon work on the Gulf coast begun after the close of his classes at the Columbia University summer school. Professor Lloyd and Professor Tracy procured a barge at Biloxi, Miss., by which they explored the flora of the islands of the Mississippi Sound, and of the delta proper. It was necessary to sail for miles in two feet of water, and occasionally to jump out and push. Always a furrow of mud followed in their wake. The islands bear a pine-barren and a sand-dune flora, with masses of *Pinguicula* and *Drosera*. The island surfaces are flat and form remnants of the tertiary Mississippi delta; they average only two feet above water, with a ridge a foot higher on the seaward side, composed of shell-fragments and continually shifted inward by the wind, the waves meanwhile gnawing off the seaward edge at the same rate.

Professor Burgess reported his continued observations on certain asters at stations near Lake Erie, Boston, the White Mountains, New York City, etc., at each of which he has kept certain varying species under scrutiny for some years to determine their range of variation under unchanged environment.

Professor Underwood reported herbarium work at Kew, the British Museum, and Paris, with particular reference to the Cosson herbarium which contains Fée's types and is very rich in ferns especially of South America and the West Indies. A week was given to a trip to Biarritz, France, and San Sebastián, Spain, and an account was given of the turpentine industry now flourishing among the pine forests of the Landes originally planted as a protection from the shifting sands. These pines average about ten inches in diameter. Maize was commonly cultivated in the Basque provinces, the tops being cut off to favor the ripening of the ears, as in our South.

Adjournment followed.

E. S. BURGESS,
Secretary.